GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PANCHAYATI RAJ
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1654
ANSWERED ON:30.07.2015
Linking of Gram Panchayats with Broadband/Internet
Birla Shri Om

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a plan to link the gram panchayats with Broadband/Internet under the Digital India Programme;
(b) if so, the details thereof;
(c) the criteria to be followed for linking gram panchayats with Broadband/Internet;
(d) whether any survey has been conducted/propose to be conducted across the country for linking the gram panchayats with this facility;
(e) if so, the State-wise details of such panchayats which are likely to be linked with this facility and the action taken by the Government in this regard so far; and
(f) the time by which the work related to linking such panchayats with Broadband/Internet is likely to be completed?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ
(SHRI NIHAL CHAND)
(a) Yes, Madam.

(b) to (e): The Department of Telecommunications is implementing the National Optical Fibre Network project to connect all the Gram Panchayats (GPs) of the country through Optical Fibre Cables (OFC) for providing broadband connectivity. The estimated cost of the project is Rs. 78,512 crores. As on 19.07.2015, OFC laying in 22,946 GPs has been completed. In order to review the strategy and approach towards speedy implementation of NOFN project, Government of India constituted a Committee on 14th January, 2015. As per recommendations of the Committee, the project has been renamed as BharatNet to reflect the national aspirations to establish highly scalable broadband network infrastructure accessible on a non-discriminatory basis to realize the vision of Digital India in partnership with States and the private sector.

(f) The completion date of the project is March, 2019.

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